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Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – November 2021 Area prices were up 1.4 percent over the past two months, up 7.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 1.4 percent for the two months ending in November 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the November increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 7.9 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) Food prices advanced 5.7 percent. Energy prices jumped 35.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 5.4 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA, January 2019–November 2021

Month	All items	All items less food and energy	
Jan 2019	3.0	3.2	
Mar 2019	2.8	3.1	
May 2019	2.9	2.6	
Jul 2019	2.6	2.8	
Sep 2019	3.1	3.2	
Nov 2019	2.9	2.6	
Jan 2020	3.0	2.5	
Mar 2020	2.3	2.4	
May 2020	0.9	2.1	
Jul 2020	1.7	1.7	
Sep 2020	1.7	1.4	
Nov 2020	1.9	2.3	
Jan 2021	2.2	2.0	
Mar 2021	3.6	2.0	
May 2021	5.9	4.0	
Jul 2021	6.5	4.9	
Sep 2021	6.8	5.2	
Nov 2021	7.9	5.4	

Food

Food prices increased 1.5 percent for the two months ending in November. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home rose 2.2 percent. Food sub-categories showed price increases between 0.7 and 2.9 percent except for a 4.0 percent increase for fruits and vegetables and no change for cereals and bakery products. Prices for food away from home increased 0.8 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 5.7 percent. Prices for food at home rose 6.7 percent since a year ago, primarily led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (14.9 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 4.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 8.3 percent for the two months ending in November. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (14.8 percent). Prices for gasoline increased 5.9 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices escalated 35.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (47.9 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 21.4 percent, and prices for electricity rose a similar 21.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (2.7 percent), recreation (2.0 percent), and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-6.3 percent) and education and communication (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 5.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (17.4 percent), household furnishings and operations (8.8 percent), and shelter (5.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in recreation (-3.4 percent).

Table A. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	20	19	20	20	2021	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January	0.4	3.0	0.5	3.0	0.9	2.2
March	0.7	2.8	0.0	2.3	1.3	3.6
May	1.2	2.9	-0.2	0.9	2.0	5.9
July	-0.1	2.6	0.7	1.7	1.3	6.5
September	0.6	3.1	0.5	1.7	0.8	6.8
November	0.2	2.9	0.4	1.9	1.4	7.9

The January 2022 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on February 10, 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on November 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended almost entirely since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in November was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA metropolitan area includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
nom and Group	Historical data	Sep. 2021	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Nov. 2020	Sep. 2021	Oct. 2021
Expenditure category							
All items	W	115.557	_	117.206	7.9	1.4	
Food and beverages	W	116.213	_	117.759	5.4	1.3	
Food	W	116.564	_	118.351	5.7	1.5	
Food at home	W	115.655	115.917	118.187	6.7	2.2	2.0
Cereals and bakery products	W	119.893	-	119.843	7.3	0.0	,
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	W	121.158	_	124.640	14.9	2.9	
Dairy and related products	W	105.590	_	107.797	1.5	2.1	
Fruits and vegetables	NA.	116.447	_	121.097	1.1	4.0	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	W	119.676	-	120.526	7.6	0.7	
Other food at home	W	109.625	-	112.102	4.1	2.3	
Food away from home	W	117.066	-	117.970	4.5	0.8	
Alcoholic beverages	W	110.294	-	107.187	0.6	-2.8	
Housing	W	116.848	-	118.562	6.5	1.5	
Shelter	W	116.173	116.853	116.773	5.0	0.5	-0.1
Rent of primary residence	W	116.578	117.455	117.782	5.2	1.0	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	W	115.856	116.318	116.692	4.7	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	W	115.856	116.318	116.692	4.7	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	W	128.311	-	138.350	15.3	7.8	
Household energy	W	131.382	148.324	146.634	20.9	11.6	-1.
Energy services	W	132.178	149.205	147.359	21.2	11.5	-1.2
Electricity	W	127.491	146.415	146.415	21.2	14.8	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	W	150.636	159.575	150.020	21.4	-0.4	-6.0
Household furnishings and operations	W	108.177	_	109.792	8.8	1.5	
Apparel	W	105.003	_	98.373	3.5	-6.3	
Transportation	NA.	122.634	_	127.108	24.7	3.6	
Private transportation	W	125.208	_	129.716	26.0	3.6	
New and used motor vehicles	W	113.728	_	116.756	17.4	2.7	
New vehicles	W	114.090	_	114.137	10.6	0.0	
Used cars and trucks	W	136.488	_	143.470	30.2	5.1	
Motor fuel	200	141.089	143.804	149.697	48.0	6.1	4.
Gasoline (all types)	W	141.459	144.060	149.862	47.9	5.9	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1)	W	141.977	144.644	150.543	48.8	6.0	4.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1)	W	142.077	144.457	150.145	43.5	5.7	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1)	W	138.624	140.983	146.400	44.0	5.6	3.8
Motor vehicle insurance	W	123.914	_	125.787	8.4	1.5	
Medical care	W	111.558	_	112.330	2.6	0.7	
Recreation	W	99.851	_	101.853	-3.4	2.0	
Education and communication	W	109.805	_	109.221	0.7	-0.5	
Tuition, other school fees, and child care	W	120.178	_	120.178	0.8	0.0	
Other goods and services	W	115.833	-	116.024	6.4	0.2	
Commodity and service group							
All items	W	115.557	-	117.206	7.9	1.4	
Commodities	W	116.214	-	118.211	12.1	1.7	
Commodities less food & beverages	W	116.173	-	118.432	16.4	1.9	
Nondurables less food & beverages	W	118.249	-	120.261	21.8	1.7	
Durables	W	113.380	-	115.891	10.9	2.2	
Services	W	115.277	-	116.723	5.6	1.3	
Special aggregate indexes							

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Sep. 2021	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Nov. 2020	Sep. 2021	Oct. 2021
All items less medical care	₩ ₩ ₩	115.834 115.293 115.966 117.167 117.783		117.543 117.560 118.074 118.932 119.524	8.3 9.6 15.9 12.6 20.6	1.5 2.0 1.8 1.5	- - - -
Services less rent of shelter	₩.	117.763 113.974 115.360	-	116.595 116.862	6.3 5.9	2.3 1.3	- -
Energy	<i>₩</i>	137.806 113.596	146.378 -	149.186 114.398	35.7 5.4	8.3 0.7	1.9
All items less food and energy	W	113.149	-	113.789	5.4	0.6	-

Footnotes

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

⁽¹⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁻ Data not available